

Instant Update

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WORLD
SQUASH

WSF

To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

cc: WSF Regional Vice-Presidents, WSF Committee Members, WSA, PSA, Accredited Companies

OLYMPIC UPDATE

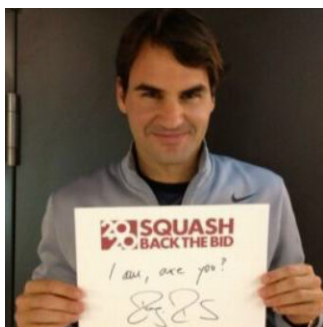
The IOC Executive Board's (EB) recent announcement recommending that wrestling is dropped from the core sports for 2020 means that it joins us with the other six sports now presenting to the IOC EB in St. Petersburg in May.

The IOC EB will decide there either to nominate one sport for the full IOC session to vote on in Buenos Aires in September, as is currently the stated plan, or may decide instead to select a short-list of two or three sports for the session to choose one from. If we are in the group or even the only one we have to then redouble efforts to convince all IOC Members that squash deserves its chance and that means every single person out there in the world of squash with any contact with individual IOC members should seek to add his or her voice to our efforts from the centre.

In doing so it is imperative to remember that the role is to speak in support of the extra value squash can bring to the Olympic Games, details of our message can be seen at http://squash2020.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Bid-Brochure-2012_wp.pdf, and please remember that we never comment upon any of the other sports, only talk about our own.

SQUASH FAN FEDERER SUPPORTS OLYMPIC BID

World tennis No2 Roger Federer is backing squash to be added to the Olympic Games programme in 2020.



"I think it's a wonderful sport. It's unfortunate some sports don't get the opportunity to be in the Olympics," said Federer. "I think squash would deserve it. They run a great tour and they have great players and characters. I'd personally be very

happy for them."

The 17-time major champion had the opportunity to meet women's squash world No1 Nicol David at the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam. Federer expressed his support to David and revealed he played the sport growing up.

"I used to play it a lot when I was younger every Sunday with my dad," Federer said. "I started with a wooden racket like I did in tennis. I've always been a big fan of the sport."



Federer and David conversed over dinner. David, a native of Malaysia and resident of Amsterdam, was thrilled to spend quality time with the Swiss superstar.

"It was exciting. He's such a great guy and true champion," said David. "He's so down to earth. He showed us what it's like behind the scenes to be a tennis player."

"It's very similar to squash," added the 29-year-old from Penang who has topped the women's world rankings since August 2006. "So it's been great to spend time with him."

When asked if she played tennis, David said: "I'm a tennis fan but not a player. I follow Roger's progress and he definitely brings the sport up to another level."

World Squash Federation President N Ramachandran (pictured) was delighted by the tennis star's endorsement: "It is fantastic to have Roger Federer supporting Squash's campaign to join the Olympic Sports Programme. His endorsement means a great deal because he is a true sporting icon who knows what it means to compete at the Olympic Games."



43RD WSF AGM – IN CHRISTCHURCH, NZ

As notified to member nations, the 43rd WSF Annual General Meeting takes place on Wednesday 23 October 2013, together with the WSF AGM Conference which takes place on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 October. (Committee meetings take place on 20th).

Squash New Zealand is hosting the meetings this year, and they will be held in the city of Christchurch.

Full details and booking form can be found at the AGM website: <http://www.2013worldsquashagm.com>

We look forward to seeing you there.

TV BREAKTHROUGH FOR WORLD SERIES FINALS



In the latest coup for the sport, the semi-finals and finals of the ATCO PSA & WSA World Series Squash Finals offered a potential worldwide audience of more than 300 million the opportunity to watch live televised squash for the first time.

The flagship World Series event - featuring the world's top eight players from both the Professional Squash Association and Women's Squash Association World Series events in 2012 - took place at The Queen's Club in London.



The live broadcasters included Sky Sports, Eurosport, Astro, PCCW, Starhub, SkyNet, Ten Sports, Orbit Showtime Network and One World Sport - the welcome newcomer being Eurosport 2, the Pan

European operation which is distributed across 47 countries and more than 60 million households.

"Last January's live coverage of the Finals on Sky Sports in the UK was a breakthrough for SquashTV, and was extremely well-received," said PSA CEO Alex Gough. "Adding in Eurosport 2 is another big step for squash.

"In our bid to become an Olympic sport, PSA has been investing heavily in TV coverage of the sport and to now have the confidence of such a significant list of broadcasters around the world airing our sport live is a big plus," he added.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

For a number of years the WSA and PSA Tour Rules have restricted events in certain periods so that World, Regional and National Championships can be protected from conflicting events - allowing promoters, federations and players to have more certainty when arranging and participating in them.

Now, with the cooperation and understanding of PSA and WSA, this system has been expanded in a trial that will begin in 2014.

Essentially, there are designated periods during which it is highly recommended that regional and national championships are held so that regions and nations can have certainty about player participation that is not possible at other times. Players can also commit knowing that there will be no conflicting events.

In outline, in 2014 using the protected weeks that are:

National championships: 7 days from 2nd Monday in February and June

Regional championships: 7 days from the last Monday in April*

*Where there is regional agreement that one of the designated National Championship weeks is not used then an additional Regional Championship can be held then, of course.

OLYMPIANS SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR SQUASH 2020 BID



Olympians Joanna Rowsell, Victoria Pendleton and Greg Searle were cheering from the stands at the ATCO PSA World Series Squash Finals as they came to show their support for Squash's inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games.

"Squash is a very physically demanding sport and it's also very spectator-friendly," said Pendleton. "The nature of the game means that it works really well - it's fast and exciting - and it has all the qualities required to make it a great Olympic sport. I don't know why it isn't in already."

Pendleton has trained alongside English squash star Nick Matthew in Manchester and watched him in action against his fellow Briton Peter Barker during the evening session at Queen's Club. Matthew is also engaged to sports scientist Esme Taylor, who has worked with both Pendleton and Rowsell as part of her role with the Team GB cycling team.

"I think it's really interesting that you can have a sport like squash which is so universal," said Searle "You have it played in over 150 countries and people of all different shapes and sizes can play it. Each sport is different and has different properties. In rowing, if you're not 6ft 5 it's hard to compete but squash can be played by everyone."

"In a sport that translates well onto TV then that's really how you can draw people into it and get people to try it," added Pendleton. "The whole idea is to give people the opportunity to get involved. I would love to have a go at squash but I think it would take me a long time to get to grips with it!"

Pendleton, Rowsell and Searle were also introduced to women's World No.1 and seven-time World Champion Nicol David. "It's such a total honour to meet you," Pendleton told David. "Your consistency is incredible and you really are amazing." On showing David her Gold and Silver medals from the London 2012 Olympic Games, Pendleton said: "You so deserve to have one of these."



Another Olympian doing so is Anjali Mandar Bhagwat. The former world number one and triple shooting Olympian is considered to be one of the greatest Indian women athletes of all time.

Olympians are not the only ones though. Top Indian cricketers including legend Sachin Tendulkar, have offered their backing recently. Others are being added all the time.

WORLD REFEREEING CONFERENCE GOES TO JORDAN



The 12th World Squash Refereeing Conference will be held in Amman, Jordan on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th October.

Jordan is a vibrant squash nation, hosting the Asian Junior Individual Championship this year.

The theme this year is 'The Next Step: Becoming an Elite Referee' and the varied programme and quality presenters will ensure that attendees come away having developed their skills and learnt a great deal.

Full details and registration form are at: www.worldsquash.org/ws/?p=11030

M ANWAR SHAMIM

Air Chief Marshal M Anwar Shamim, the founder President of Asian Squash Federation (ASF) died in hospital recently in Islamabad, Pakistan following a long illness. The Air Chief Marshal held the office President of ASF from 1980 – 1985.

Photographs: Many with thanks from SquashSite.co.uk and squashpics.com

AL TAMIMI & WHITLOCK HEAD LATEST WSF WORLD JUNIOR RANKINGS



Qatari Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi and England's Emily Whitlock headed the WSF World Junior Circuit Rankings according to the new February list published by WSF.

Al Tamimi retains the top position he first achieved in November. After winning the Liechtenstein Junior Open last year, the 18-year-old went on to win the Dutch Junior Open in Amsterdam. Jordan's Ahmad Al-Saraj and Englishman Richie Fallows hold onto second and third positions, respectively –



Al-Saraj winning his own country's junior open in April before making the final of the Hong Kong Junior Open in July, and 17-year-old Fallows clinching both the Nordic Junior Open and Swiss Junior Open trophies late last year.

Emily Whitlock rounded off her illustrious junior career in style in January by winning the women's British Junior Open title for the first time - not only becoming the only home winner, but also adding to the U17 crown she won two years before. The 18-year-old also won the European Junior Championship last year - and is already establishing herself on the WSA Tour, with six titles to her credit.



India's Anaka Alankamony moves up to second place, boosted by title success in both the Indian Junior Open and the Asian Junior Championships. Third place is taken by Karla Urrutia, the 18-year-old from Mexico who won both the PanAm Junior Championship and the Canadian Junior Open.

The *WSF World Junior Circuit Rankings* - based on the under-19 age grouping and launched in 2011 - are issued quarterly, based on results achieved in national junior opens, regional championships and WSF World Junior Individual Championships.

BALL CHANGE

The WSF World Championship Regulations have been amended so that they are aligned with PSA in respect of ball changes and now read:

The referee may decide that the ball must be changed at any time if he feels that the shape or playability of it is or has become inappropriate in accordance with general standards or specifications. In the case of white balls the referee may also order a change if the visibility of it has deteriorated, and either player may request a new ball at the start of the third game.

BOTSWANA CLAIM HISTORIC ALL AFRICA CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD

Botswana claimed a historic first title success in an international squash event when Alister Walker beat Zambian Kelvin Ndhlovu in the Men's Individual final of the All Africa Championships at the Wanderers Club in the Namibia capital Windhoek.



New York-based Walker (pictured below), the world No14, was representing the country of his birth for the first time as a senior – and had earlier led Botswana to fourth place in the team championships.



South Africa captured gold in the team championship after beating Zambia 2/1 in a repeat of the 2011 final in Johannesburg.

The mixed team was led by Siyoli Waters, the world No37 from Cape Town who went on to clinch the other individual crown after beating Senada Haupt in the all-South African

women's final.

All Africa Squash Championships, Windhoek, Namibia
Men's Individual Championship quarter-finals:

[1] Alister Walker (BOT) bt Jonathan Peters (NGR) 12-10, 11-5, 11-6; [4] Christo Potgieter (RSA) bt [7] Lekgotla Mosope (BOT) 11-5, 11-4, 11-4; [3] Kelvin Ndhlovu (ZAM) bt [5] Mwinga Lengwe (ZAM) w/o; [2] Rodney Durbach (RSA) bt [6] Michael Wood (RSA) 11-9, 11-7, 11-5

Semi-finals:

[1] Alister Walker (BOT) bt [4] Christo Potgieter (RSA) 11-2, 11-4, 11-4; [3] Kelvin Ndhlovu (ZAM) bt [2] Rodney Durbach (RSA) 11-4, 11-8, 11-2

Final:

[1] Alister Walker (BOT) bt [3] Kelvin Ndhlovu (ZAM) 11-9, 11-4, 11-2

Women's Individual Championship quarter-finals:

[1] Siyoli Waters (RSA) bt Longdi Dasbak (NGR) 11-2, 11-3, 11-3; [3] Isabell Schnoor (NAM) bt Leungo Mothlabane (BOT) 11-6, 11-7, 11-4; [4] Vanessa Florens (MRI) bt Yemisi Olatunji (NGR) 11-5, 11-5, 11-2; [2] Senada Haupt (RSA) bt Udemé James (NGR) 11-4, 11-6, 11-8

Semi-finals:

[1] Siyoli Waters (RSA) bt [3] Isabell Schnoor (NAM) 11-2, 11-2, 11-0; [2] Senada Haupt (RSA) bt [4] Vanessa Florens (MRI) 11-4, 11-1, 11-7

Final:

[1] Siyoli Waters (RSA) bt [2] Senada Haupt (RSA) 8-11, 11-6, 11-7, 14-12

Team Championship Final:

SOUTH AFRICA	bt	ZAMBIA	2/1
Siyoli Waters	bt	Sharon Chimfwembe	11-2, 11-3, 11-5
Rodney Durbach	lost to	Kelvin Ndhlovu	4-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-5, 1-11
Christo Potgieter	bt	Mwinga Lengwe	8-11, 12-10, 11-0, 11-2

U.S. SQUASH LEADS THE WAY IN PRIZE MONEY PARITY

U.S. Squash has announced that the prize purse for the 2013 Delaware Investments U.S. Open Squash Championships will provide equal prize money for both the women's and men's events.

Leading the way in the industry, and ahead of many other professional sports yet to achieve parity for both genders, the prize money for the women will be raised to \$115,000 to make it equal to the men's fund. The women's draw will also be increased to 32 players from a previous 16 player draw, now in line with the men's draw, providing greater opportunity for female professional players to compete in the World Series event.

"It is a top priority for us to promote opportunities for girls and women to play squash," said Kevin Klipstein, CEO of U.S. Squash. "Offering equal prize money is one way we are able to help more female squash players compete at the highest level and to their full potential."



Sports icon and social justice pioneer Billie Jean King said: "Any time you can achieve equality in any field of endeavour - be it in sports or in life - everyone wins. This announcement is so much more about the message than the money and I am thrilled another U.S. championship event has stepped up and done the right thing."

Klipstein (left, with Peter Lasusa, Chair of U.S. Squash) added: "In the US we have the same number of girls playing as boys and a nearly equal number of women and men competing in college. The women's tour has an incredible, dynamic and entertaining World Champion and recent U.S. Open Champion in Nicol David. The women's tour is equally as significant and competitive as the men's tour, and the opportunities for both genders should be equivalent."

The 2013 Delaware Investments U.S. Open will be held at Drexel University in Philadelphia from 9-18 October.

COURT BUILDING BOOMS

Companies who build Complete Court Accredited Courts (CCA) – being a requirement for new courts that wish to be considered for event use, have projects going on worldwide.

Courtwall have been particularly active in the French market with centres such as Play`n Sports in Ambérieu-en-Bugey, (pictured), Soccer Park in Tours and We Are Sports in Vénissieux Centre, Lyon, amongst others.



Also in France, ASB have finished the Lisses Sport Académie near Evry / Paris (pictured) and six courts at HPark in Clermont Ferrand. Both include rainbow floor courts specifically for coaching purposes.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Recent events have seen presentations to players who have won awards as voted for by their peers at WSA and PSA.

Malaysia's Nicol David has been named WSA Heather McKay Player of the Year for the 7th time following a presentation at the Cleveland Classic quarter-finals night.

David, who saw another immaculate year as the world's No.1 player, was

just one title win short of claiming a clean sweep in all World Series events in 2012, culminating in her seventh World Open title. The award, one of many rebranded accolades this year, is named after a legend of the women's game, Heather McKay, who was a dominant force on the Tour throughout the 60's and 70's.



The ceremony, held at the Cleveland Classic event, also featured further WSA nominations from an independent panel. Alison Waters received the Vicki Cardwell Comeback Player of the Year 2012 after an impressive return from a year's layoff saw the English 28-year-old start the year at No.39 and

claim five titles on her way back up to the world's Top4.

Seventeen-year-old Nour El Sherbini burst into the upper echelons of the WSA world rankings in 2012, leaping from No.28 in January 2012 to peak at No.5. The prodigal Egyptian reached the British Open final at the O2 Arena in London in May, and in acknowledgment of her excellent efforts has been appointed the Breakthrough Player of the Year 2012.

Samantha Teran's services to squash did not go unnoticed last year, as she was honoured with the Platinum Service Award 2012. Also a new award, The Platinum Service Award celebrates a player's dedication and service to the sport, not just for the past 12-months, but over a number of years. The Mexican has been busy both on and off the tour, helping to raise the profile of squash in her home country, as well as opening a new squash club and founding the Abierto Mexicano de Raquetas event in Toluca, which she was unfortunately forced to withdraw from through injury.



The new WSA Sportsmanship Award was awarded to Samantha Cornett for her commitment to fair play and keen spirit both on and off court. Cornett was honoured at the Tournament of Champions event at Grand Central Station, New York City.

The WSA Cayman Islands World Open 2012 was deemed the first ever WSA Tournament of the Year as the culmination of the WSA's calendar in December 2012. Voted for by the players alone, the event, run by Dan Kniepp, was regarded as highly successful and well-run throughout the week. The Cayman Islands National Squash Association were honoured to receive the award, stating that it was a joy to host the magnificent event and that they look forward to hosting more events in the future.

ASHOUR LEADS THE WAY

Egypt's Ramy Ashour was honoured as *PSA Player of the Year* for the second year in a row at the annual World Squash Awards. The presentation took place at the PSA World Series JP Morgan Tournament of Champions at Grand Central Terminal in New York.

In a further nomination by the PSA Board, fellow Egyptian Marwan El Shorbagy received the *PSA Young Player of the Year* award.

Ashour has become one of the biggest draws on the PSA World Tour over the past few years. Twice a winner of the *PSA Young Player of the Year* award, the two-time world junior champion rapidly made his mark on the senior tour, becoming world number one for the first time in January 2010, aged 23.

After an injury-affected 2011, the gifted 25-year-old from Cairo enjoyed the best year of his professional career in 2012, becoming the first player for almost two decades to reach the final of all events he played in - winning five titles and capping the year by clinching the PSA World Championship crown for the second time and regaining the world number one ranking this month.



Samantha Cornett (centre), with Ramy Ashour (left) and Marwan El Shorbagy (right)

After following in the footsteps of Mohamed El Shorbagy by winning a second World Junior Championship title last year, teenager Marwan El Shorbagy is now emulating his older brother by becoming 'Young Player of the Year' - an award won by Mohamed in both 2009 and 2010.

"It's an honour to be awarded the '2012 PSA Young Player of the Year'," tweeted El Shorbagy junior later. "Thanks to everyone who has supported me through all this year."

FRANCE FOCUSES ON MEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP



A maximum 32 nations - with representation from all five continents - will contest the 2013 WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship which will be held in France for the first time

in the event's 46-year history.

The 24th WSF Men's World Team Championship, hosted by the Fédération Française de Squash, will be held from 9-15 June in Mulhouse, at both the Espace Squash 3000 Centre and the Palais Des Sports (pictured) - where action will take place on three all-glass showcourts.

It was in the French city of Nîmes last year that the French Squash Federation first unveiled its three state-of-the-art all-glass courts at the 2012 Women's World Team Championship.



"Thanks to the acquisition of three glass courts (which is a first for a national federation in the world) we have noticed a very significant increase of interest from the media, and especially TV, for squash," said FFS President Jacques Fontaine. "This tool is specific to squash and unique in sport today."

"The 32 nations expected in Mulhouse will provide a fantastic spectacle."



Egypt will defend the title men's world team title they won for the fourth time in Germany

in 2011 after upsetting favourites England in the final in Paderborn. Hosts France, twice runners-up, will be looking to win the title for the first time. Meanwhile, Botswana and Poland will be making their first appearances in the championship.

The full list of nations participating is (in alphabetic order): Argentina, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, USA and Venezuela.

The official website:

www.worldmenssquash-mulhouse2013.fr/

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WorldSquashChampionshipsMulhouse2013

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/WorldSquash2013>

BRING ON 2013



WSF, together with the Men's and Women's Professional Tours, has launched a new online campaign to build support for Squash's ambition to join the Olympic Games in 2020.

Using the Twitter ID @vote4squash and hashtag #vote4squash,

followers are being urged to show their support and help turn Squash's Olympic ambitions into reality. The initiative has already seen #vote4squash trending in Malaysia, the Middle East, the United Kingdom and Australia.

World Squash Federation President N Ramachandran said: "Our 144 Member Federations and the leading players on the PSA and WSA World Tours are really getting behind this initiative to encourage as many fans as possible to register their support for our Olympic campaign. This comes on top of our existing use of Facebook and YouTube where our 2020 campaign film has registered nearly 100,000 views since being posted in December."

"The next few months are crucial to our bid and using social media to demonstrate the huge passion there is for Squash to become part of the Olympic Games is important as we head towards our presentation to the IOC Executive Board in May."



Official WSF Magazine

Mohamed El Shorbagy, the World Championship runner-up, is a player likely to have a crucial part in the WSF World Men's Team Championship at Mulhouse in France from June 9 to 15.

For Rod Gilmour's in-depth interview in Squash Player with the rising Egyptian star, click on http://www.squashplayer.co.uk/features/feb_2013/S_horbagy-WEB.pdf

NEW MALAYSIAN CIRCUIT

The launch of the new Malaysian Squash Circuit in Putrajaya by Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek will fill a vacuum in Malaysian squash for national back-up and junior players lacking an avenue to showcase their talent and make a living off the sport, something that top player Mohd

Azlan Iskandar has been hard at work at since he announced his retirement last year. (Cheek, left, Azlan right, in photo).

"A lot of people run to the ministry for money but we have pitched a plan which will allow us to use



Rakan Muda and IKBN (National Youth Skills Institute) centres for squash with the ministry being the facilitator," said Azlan, the 2010 Asian Games individual gold medalist. "With the backing of the Sports Ministry, we can also reach out to the Education Ministry and conduct programmes in schools.

"I have been running my academy for a year and a half and we have been providing reports on the academy's progress to show we are serious about this.

The 10-leg squash circuit will largely run in venues where Azlan's academy has a presence and the former World No 10 hopes that national players will gain from competing on the circuit. "I wish someone had done this when I was 17 years old. For a player who wins all 10 events, it will be worth RM38,000 to him and that's a decent sum," said Azlan.

"This is my way of giving back to the sport and help supplement the effort of SRAM (Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia) in developing the sport.

"It will also help create job opportunities for coaches and the players can do their part to popularise the sport. The fact that the circuit will be held near my academies means the juniors will have a chance to watch professionals in action."



all-glass centre court featuring a doubles configuration (pictured) in the Arena Nicol David.

The news comes at the time when the Bukit Jalil

National Centre has been completely refurbished including a new ASB

WORLD MASTERS 2014



David Mui, Chairman of Hong Kong Squash, has shared his vision and enthusiasm in bringing the World Masters 2014 to his territory and his general vision in an interview with the World Masters team (WM):

WM: HK players are rapidly rising up through the world ranks - including Annie Au at #10 and Max Lee now in the top 30. How has Hong Kong Squash achieved such success?

DM: Over the past 20 years we have developed an extensive junior programme of training and competitions to introduce the sport through schools and the community. Easy access to public courts and strong government funding have given talented athletes the chance to refine their games and play at an international level. The success of players like Rebecca Chui and now Annie and Max have provided inspiring role models. We have a great depth of players coming up through the system, so look forward to going from strength to strength.

WM: What do you think the prospects are for Hong Kong players to emerge as Masters World Champions in 2014?

DM: I am sure there will be great support for the event from Hong Kong players and we do have some very strong competitors at all levels. Several formerly world ranked players reside and still play in Hong Kong, and with a bit of training we would expect to see them do well

WM: What makes Hong Kong an ideal venue for the World Masters Championship? Any message to players thinking about coming to compete?

DM: Hong Kong is very compact and dynamic and boasts some of the best squash facilities in the world. The venues, hotels and entertainment areas are all very close so players won't need to worry much about getting around. I am sure that anyone coming to the WM'14, whether to compete or support, will have a great experience. Seize the opportunity!

WM: What are you looking forward to most at the WM'14?

DM: To meeting and talking with players from around the world and welcoming them to our great city.

WM: I know you play regular league squash David. Will we see you in the draw in 2014?

DM: I have started training already!

WM: Will we see you in the draw in 2014?

DM: I have started training already!

POP IN TO A POP-UP SQUASH SHOP!

In Manchester's Corn Exchange in England, a pop-up squash shop making use of un-used retail space to create a temporary high street squash court.



The 'squash shop' concept is being rolled out across the UK by England Squash & Racketball as part of The Big Hit campaign which engages the public. "We feel that

empty shops can be put to better use for the community by using them as a temporary squash shops," said Steve Amos, Head of National Network at ESR. "Working with retail management to make them available and staffed by our regional coaching team, we want consumers to walk out of a clothing store and straight in to a squash shop for a quick taster session and to learn the fun and health benefits that you can have with a squash racket and a ball."

Launching the first squash shop in Manchester was one of Britain's top female players Laura Massaro. The world number 3 thinks the squash shop is a great way to get the public playing; "I think it's a great idea. Squash is the perfect sport to put in the 'shop window' and because we play on courts not much bigger than this shop, the experience for shoppers to pick up a racket and have a go, gives them a real feel for how much fun the game can be. There is so much redundant retail space on Britain's high streets, that making good use of it to get the public playing a sport like squash is so blindingly simple. The Big Hit should be a big success."



The BBC Breakfast team including sports presenter Mike Bushell (pictured) even came down to give it a try with Massaro.

WORLD MASTERS GAMES



Squash is now a confirmed sport for the World Masters Games which is taking place in Torino (Turin), Italy, 2–11 August 2013.

Full details are at:

<http://www.torino2013wmg.org/?lang=en>.

The organisers are hoping for a large entry and have a back-up venue in place if necessary.

WSF APPROVED RACKETS



NEW ONLINE RANKING SYSTEM ON THE BLOCK

A new ranking system put together by SquashChampions.com based in Bangalore and Los Angeles that has recently come on stream. Their system allows players of all levels to join local rankings in their city or state and then challenge other players to meet up and play individual matches. Key features include Facebook connect, professional looking player profiles and graphs to show playing history.

SquashChampions.com already has twenty rankings running in five countries. They are continuing to grow and innovate, adding new features based on the recommendations from the members.



We caught up with Navin Shenoy President of their Bangalore Ranking to find out how the system is working for him.

Q: Please introduce yourself and how are you involved in the squash community

A: I started a city wide squash ladder for Bangalore in 2007 to help the squash players better their game by giving them a platform to challenge and play other players. I also run the Bangalore Squash League which is a team event involving the players on the ladder. The ladder has allowed our players to challenge and play people who under normal circumstances would never get to play each other. This brought about greater competition and has helped to improve the standard of the game in the city.

Q: What were your initial thoughts when you heard about SquashChampions.com?

A: I started our ladder on paper with players SMS'ing results to me. Later we had a very basic online system. I was happy to find the Squash Champions team had built a very thorough system.

Q: How did your players react when you told them about SquashChampions.com?

A: I just had to inform our players that a new and better ladder had been created and to register online at www.squashchampions.com. Players were pretty happy with what they saw and have moved to the new ladder pretty easily.

Q: Do share some tips/recommendations to other potential presidents who are thinking of setting up a ranking in their area

A: So long as you have at least ten people who are ready to play then go ahead and start a ladder. People have a mind block to things they have not seen so just get it off the ground with a few players. Once people see matches being held and hear about players enjoying playing matches then the numbers will grow.

Q: What are the main advantages you see in Squash Champions compared to other similar online ranking systems?

A: Squash Champions has covered almost all the aspects that an online ladder needs to have so using it is pretty easy and even people with limited knowledge about getting online find it easy to use.

SquashChampions.com can be contacted at info@squashchampions.com

MANCHESTER HOSTS WORLD MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SECOND TIME

The \$325,000 PSA Men's World Championship 2013 is to be staged at the English National Squash Centre with finals at Manchester Central, from 26 October to 3 November.

Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, explained: "Manchester is the home of UK squash and it will be exciting to welcome the World's best players back to the city.

"The Men's World Championship will be a highlight of Manchester's enviable 2013 sporting programme - that also includes the UCI BMX Supercross World Cup, the Bupa Great Manchester Run and Great CityGames, a pre-season NBA basketball exhibition game and the Rugby League World Cup final.

"Manchester has a remarkably strong track record for hosting both national and international sporting events that not only showcase our world-class facilities but helps encourage local residents to become more involved with sport."

WORLD HARBALL DOUBLES GOES TO NEW YORK



The 2013 World Hardball Squash Doubles Championships from April 11-15 are hosted by U.S. Squash and the New York Metropolitan Squash Doubles Clubs and offer \$70,000 in prize money across a men's division, women's division and mixed division.

Head of the U.S. Squash Doubles Committee and Tournament Co-Chairman Tim Wyant says the event is the most significant tournament on the hardball doubles calendar. "This event brings together the world's most talented hardball doubles players for an intensive battle to be crowned the World Hardball Squash Doubles Champions," says Quick. "The title is the highest honour in hardball doubles squash, and attracts so much interest from all over the world. It's great that hardball doubles is so popular internationally."

The men's division will be made up of 64 players for a 32 team draw, while the women's and mixed events are 16 team (32 player) draws.





"Women's doubles is a growing area, and interest in this tournament is always strong," says Emily Lungstrum, Tournament Co-Chairperson. "It is great to see so many strong teams put forward to compete in this event each year."

Registrations are open until Tuesday March 19, and National Squash Associations can use this form <http://www.worldsquash.org/ws/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/2013-World-Doubles-Entry.pdf> to submit their entry to U.S. Squash.

CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2013

The following brands have passed national safety standards and have applied for WSF Certified listing and so are eligible for use in WSF, Regional and many national junior events. When buying new products look for the WSF Certified Tested logo on them.

Brands that become certified will be added to the WSF website and featured in forthcoming WSF Instant Updates.

BRAND NAME	APPROVED MODELS
Dunlop 	Dunlop I-ARMOR
i-Mask 	i-Mask
Prince 	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (Pro2)
Tecnifibre 	R615

ASIA ELECTS NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The ASF AGM held in Seoul alongside the Asian Junior Championships resulted in outgoing President Dato Sani Karim becoming Emeritus President and Hong Kong Squash Chairman David Mui taking over as President. The full officer list is:

President: David Y Y Mui, MH JP (Hong Kong), Vice Presidents: Kim Won Kwan (Korea), Fayez Al-Mutairi (Kuwait), AVM Syed Razi Nawab (Pakistan), Secretary General: Duncan Chiu (Hong Kong), Hon. Treasurer: Cedric Tyen (Hong Kong)

Appointed Officers are: Coaching Director: Tony Choi (Hong Kong), Referees Director: Munir Shah (Singapore), Assistant Secretary General: Karl Mak (Hong Kong).

WSF APPROVED BALLS



RACKETS FOR AFRICA ARE IN PLAY

.....in a number of countries. A few have reported here:

Making a difference in disadvantaged communities in South Africa through squash.



Many learners at township and Johannesburg inner-city schools in South Africa are not receiving the benefits of physical and sporting development. Educators do not have the time and schools do not have the resources to offer extra-mural or sport development facilities.

Egolisquash is working hard to reverse this condition through the introduction of squash to disadvantaged kids in these areas. Youngsters were able to utilize the rackets in the local Egolisquash tournaments. These included the Inner-city – Soweto tournament

which is a friendly tournament for kids from these centres. Similarly, about 60 kids from the inner-city, Soweto and Alexandra were full of excitement as they participated in the annual Egolisquash Heritage Day and had enough rackets as opposed to the previous tournaments.

The visit of Riley Waterous (pictured with a group), who had made initiative possible through the collection of rackets to the kids involved in the programme. Currently, there are about 2500 kids involved in the programme. Riley handed them 200 squash rackets to be used in their training sessions. This was the second consignment of rackets from Rackets For Africa. The rackets were used to facilitate coaching clinics run for about 800 kids who participated in one of our largest squash annual events- Egolisquash Festival. The youngsters also used the rackets to design World Squash Day art designs which were uploaded in the World Squash website.

The rackets were further used to build capacity among adults from these disadvantaged communities. Three squash training courses were run; Coach the Coach, Level 1 and Level 2. Twenty-five Sports Coordinators and parents were trained in these courses. The programme has taken adults from the disadvantaged communities, given them different skills including squash, fitness and coaching so they are now able to earn a living from the structures.

The rackets have enabled Egolisquash to engage in expansion projects and run introductory clinics which cater for learners who are physically and intellectually challenged aged from 8-18 years.

In Zimbabwe....

This initiative has seen the introduction and development of squash in most of the communities around Zimbabwe. The donated rackets have been distributed to the Zimbabwe Squash Academy (Belgravia) & (Harare Sports Club), Matebeleland



Province, and a few given to the upcoming and developing junior squash players in Zimbabwe.

The under privileged communities have received the rackets with great thanks.

And in Botswana



The rackets for Africa initiative was described as probably the biggest thing to happen to Botswana junior squash in a long time, according to Koketso Ntshebe, BSRA's Development Manager, saying it

'provided our junior players with rackets of such a high quality and enough for us to share with all our four main development centers around Botswana namely Francistown, Selebi-Phikwe, Francistown and Gaborone. Sadly but true we do get very limited funding from our governing bodies which impedes with our development. But this initiatives has done wonders. It has enabled us to find more players and naturally for juniors it just meant more competition for places and courts.

.....While in Kenya

A pilot junior programme at KCB Club in Nairobi has brought in a number of youngsters and via it Kenya SRA have been able to get other clubs interested and hope to launch it in these clubs soon. They have also been able to initiate a schools programme where around ten schools are already on board. The formal launch of the scheme takes place in March.

WORLD JUNIORS, WROCLAW AWAITS



There will be great excitement while the participating nations fight for the

Women's Junior Team Championship in the Polish city of Wroclaw, but first the destiny of the male and female individual crowns will need to be decided. Entry forms have been circulated to all national federations

In terms of schedule - World Individual Under-19 titles for both men and women are 16-21 July, followed by the Women's World Junior Team Championship, 22-27 July.

The full list of competing teams is: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa and USA.



The championships are being played at the Hasta La Vista Club, a new Wroclaw facility which opened last year featuring twelve courts, which include a three-glass-wall 'centre court'.

Website: <http://hastalavista.pl/wjc-2013>

Challenge, meet, compete...

Energize your squash community by giving junior players the opportunity to compete, seasoned players the chance to find new opponents, and serious squash players a focus to their training

Your players will be able to play individual matches at any time and get a ranking. Would you like this system in your area? Email info@squashchampions.com to find out more

www.squashchampions.com

PETER NICOL & TIM GARNER BOOST OLYMPIC BID WITH 7 CONTINENT CHALLENGE



Former internationals Peter Nicol MBE and Tim Garner will contest 7 Squash Matches in 7 Days on 7 Continents in a bid to help raise the profile of Squash's

campaign to join the programme of the 2020 Olympic Games.

The *Xodus 7 Continent Challenge*, inspired by legendary British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes' Land Rover 7x7 (ie. seven marathons in seven days on seven continents), was conceived by Garner.

The *Xodus 7 Continent Challenge* will see the English pair travel more than 40,000 miles and spend over 70 hours on planes over the course of a week that will be a test of endurance both mentally and physically.

Crossing squash rackets in each of the destinations the matches will be the focal point of squash activity on each continent at that time.

"I wanted to come up with something that would highlight the fantastic bid that Squash is putting together to join the Olympic Programme in 2020 and got thinking about the 7 Marathons Challenge and how that could be adopted," said Garner.

"This will not only hopefully do that, but will also demonstrate the global universality of the sport.

"It is fantastic to have someone with the profile of Peter Nicol to share it with," added the 42-year-old former world No26. "Hopefully we will start and finish as friends - though I have the feeling we both intend winning!"

As well as profiling the Olympic Bid, the *Xodus 7 Continent Challenge* will be raising monies for two squash causes: The first is to support Squash's inclusion in the LV= SOS Kit Aid Scheme, and the second Natasha's Steps, a trust set up help young squash player Natasha Drake who is recovering from an idiopathic bleed on her brain.

Xodus 7 Continent Challenge schedule:

Day 1: 13th April - Falkland Islands	'Antarctica'
Day 2: 14th April - Santiago, Chile	South America
Day 3: 16th April* - Sydney, Australia	Australia
Day 4: 17th April - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Asia
Day 5: 18th April - Cairo, Egypt	Africa
Day 6: 19th April - London, UK	Europe
Day 7: 20th April - New York	North America

(*lose a day due to international date line)

Nicol, the former world champion and world number one, said: "When Tim approached me about the idea I had no hesitation - well, maybe a little - in saying yes! Through the course of this bid process, Squash has been demonstrating all of its strengths and why it will be a great addition to the Olympic Programme and the more people that hear about it the better."

WSA / PSA RANKINGS



Gaultier Rises to Three

While Egypt's Ramy Ashour and Englishman Nick Matthew strengthen their grip on the top two places, France's Gregory Gaultier (pictured below) moves up to third position in the new March Dunlop PSA Men's World Squash Rankings.



With three PSA World Tour titles since October, the 30-year-old from Aix-en-Provence is enjoying one of the most spectacular phases of his 14-year professional career. Already this year, Gaultier has followed a runners-up berth in the JP Morgan Tournament of Champions

in New York with title success in last month's Case Swedish Open in Linköping where he upset world No2 Matthew in the final.

His latest achievement saw him notch up his 50th appearance in a PSA Tour final - a magnificent milestone only equalled by Matthew on today's Tour.

England's James Willstrop slips to fourth place, whilst 22-year-old Mohamed El Shorbagy moves up to a career-equalling-high No5, ahead of fellow Egyptians Karim Darwish and Amr Shabana.

1	[1]	Ramy Ashour	EGY	1,451
2	[2]	Nick Matthew	ENG	1,095
3	[4]	Gregory Gaultier	FRA	928
4	[3]	James Willstrop	ENG	854
5	[6]	Mohamed El Shorbagy	EGY	637
6	[5]	Karim Darwish	EGY	608
7	[7]	Amr Shabana	EGY	515
8	[8]	Peter Barker	ENG	504
9	[9]	Omar Mosaad	EGY	496
10	[10]	Borja Golan	ESP	435
11	[11]	Tarek Momen	EGY	396
12	[12]	Tom Richards	ENG	360
13	[15]	Laurens Jan Anjema	NED	333
14	[14]	Alister Walker	BOT	323
15	[13]	Daryl Selby	ENG	314
16	[16]	Simon Rosner	GER	291
17	[17]	Adrian Grant	ENG	290
18	[19]	Cameron Pilley	AUS	275
19	[18]	Saurav Ghosal	IND	275
20	[20]	Stephen Copping	RSA	265



No Change at the Top

The March WSA Women's World ranking sees an unchanged top ten with Malaysian Nicol David (pictured right) and Raneem El Weleily from Egypt, maintaining their grip on the top two places. El Weleily had mounted a great fightback from 2/1 down in the final of the Cleveland Classic to beat David, and her reward is to edge closer to the

Malaysian while also enlarging the gap between her and her challengers.



Meanwhile, 17 year old Nour El Sherbini has a wafer-thin lead over Alison Waters in the race for fourth place. Above them is England's Laura Massaro, who was beaten 3/2 by Waters in the final of the British Nationals, who

is in the third slot.

1	Nicol David	MAS	1	3193.529
2	Raneem El Weleily	EGY	2	2021.563
3	Laura Massaro	ENG	3	1709.000
4	Nour El Sherbini	EGY	4	1213.656
5	Alison Waters	ENG	5	1209.524
6	Low Wee Wern	MAS	6	1036.250
7	Joelle King	NZL	7	1002.389
8	Jenny Duncalf	ENG	8	872.647
9	Camille Serme	FRA	9	867.368
10	Annie Au	HKG	10	834.700
11	Madeline Perry	IRL	12	806.136
12	Natalie Grinham	NED	11	768.824
13	Kasey Brown	AUS	13	718.143
14	Omneya Abdel Kawy	EGY	14	599.735
15	Dipika Pallikal	IND	15	569.658
16	Rachael Grinham	AUS	16	532.727
17	Donna Urquhart	AUS	17	485.386
18	Samantha Teran	MEX	18	430.556
19	Joey Chan	HKG	19	409.925
20	Sarah Kippax	ENG	20	380.975

WORLDWIDE COACHING LEVEL STANDARDISATION

The WSF Coaching Committee have finalised core content for coaching courses so that regions and nations have base areas that need to be covered in courses they provide (adding to as they wish). Not only does this ensure that worldwide there will be assured quality in coaches taking certified courses, but for the coaches themselves, their qualifications will be recognised internationally.

They have started with Level 1, which is now completed, to be followed by Level 2 and Level 3 during the coming year.

What this means in practice is the intention that every region cross references the core content with their own Level 1 outline to ensure that it embraces all the topics (and others too, if desired), or simply adopt this version if they wish. Then the details can be submitted by the region to the WSF Coaching Committee so that the WSF can then offer the WSF Certified Course logo to be added to course materials and certificates as published by the regions.

Meanwhile, regions will be able to check the content of courses offered by national federations, so that if they include all the core content the regional and WSF certification can be added to them too.

Thus anybody taking and passing such a coaching qualification will have the national, regional and world certification.

SNIPPETS

Beast Nominated

A film called "Beasts of the Southern Wild" was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture.

The production company for the film is called Court 13 - named after an abandoned squash court (at Wesleyan University in Connecticut) where the filmmakers first set up shop, and even lived for a time.

Iran embraces Racketball



Iran already has a strong squash community, with Tour events having already been played there, but now there are racketball seeds being sown. Led by coach Fereshteh Vaziri, groups in Tehran are trying racketball as an

introduction to squash and a game in its' own right. Vaziri (back row, centre), who also takes coaching and refereeing courses, provides strong support to the Iran Squash Federation.

National Centre for Japan



Japan Squash Association has submitted plans for a national squash centre with the government supported by 25 member of congress. The case will be discussed during the present

session of the Diet.

It will be built in the heart of Tokyo with six courts plus one all glass court.

Medical Appointment

Dr Anne Smith, the Director of the WSF Medical Commission has been invited to join the International World Games Association Medical Committee.

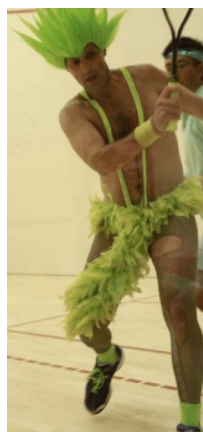
US Pro Series



U.S. Squash and the Professional Squash Association (PSA) have joined in partnership to launch the *US Pro Squash Series* (www.usprosquashseries.com). The primary goal of the series is to serve

as a marketing umbrella for US men's professional tournaments and to increase the awareness of squash through the professional game.

A real Wing Ding



The Hong Kong Wing Ding Charity Event regular spawns some interesting photos such as this one!

Charity is the name of the game raising over US\$200,000 for local charities this time, and is a colourful and fun family event that brings together non-league social players, league players and local and international professionals, including former HK number one Ladies player Rebecca Chiu, Hong Kong number one mens players Max Lee and Dick Lau, and other current professionals including Thierry Lincou, Alister Walker, Cameron Pilley and Line Hansen.



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